

December 17, 2009

**WASHINGTON, DC** - U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer (NY-D) and U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) announced today that they have secured \$2.4 million for the U.S. Army to upgrade over 3,000 M24 sniper rifles used by servicemen and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Local company, Remington Arms, will compete for a federal contract through the U.S. Army to perform the M24 sniper rifle upgrades. If successful, all work on the M24 Sniper Rifle would take place at Remington Arms' Ilion facility by local employees.

"Remington is a proud New York company with a world-class workforce that makes some of the finest firearms produced anywhere in the country, and American soldiers benefit from their products," **said Senator Schumer**. "This funding will allow Remington to compete aggressively for federal M24 rifle contracts, which is good for all of Central New York."

"This funding will provide our servicemen and women with the best capabilities to protect our nation and at the same time position the employees of Remington Arms to continue their great tradition of top quality manufacturing," **Arcuri said**. "Remington has the potential to grow and develop even further with this U.S. Army contract and I know that they are well suited to continue their work in projects for the United States military and defense programs. I look forward to continuing my work with Senator Schumer to assist Remington in the future."

"On behalf of our 905 employees in Ilion and our New York suppliers, we are grateful for the efforts of Congressman Arcuri and Senator Schumer to secure funding to upgrade the Army's M24 sniper weapon system," **Remington Arms Ilion Plant Manager James Rabbia said**. "This upgrade funding will ultimately give our soldiers in Afghanistan greater capability and Remington intends to compete for the upgrade contract to continue to provide first-class sniper systems for the warfighter."

The Army currently uses approximately 3,000 M24 sniper rifles. The M24 was used by the Army's sniper teams in Iraq and continues to be used by the teams in Afghanistan. Since the technology is over 20 years old, it is imperative for the Army to upgrade the weapon to keep soldiers on the ground as safe as possible.

The \$2.4 million for the M24 sniper rifle upgrade is part of the Fiscal Year 2010 Department of Defense Appropriations Bill. Schumer and Arcuri were also successful in securing \$3.4 million for the M24 sniper rifle upgrade last year in the Fiscal Year 2009 Defense Appropriations Bill.

The FY2010 Defense Appropriations Bill passed the House of Representatives yesterday by a vote of 395-34 and will now proceed to the Senate for consideration later this week.

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